



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/759,630	01/16/2004	Christian Otto Boemmel	21334-1294	1211
29450	7590	08/11/2005	EXAMINER	
BARLEY SNYDER, LLC 1000 WESTLAKES DRIVE, SUITE 275 BERWYN, PA 19312			HYEON, HAE M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2839	

DATE MAILED: 08/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

AK

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/759,630

Applicant(s)

BOEMMEL ET AL.

Examiner

Hae M. Hyeon

Art Unit

2839

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 July 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11 and 17-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11 and 17-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 11 is objected to because of the following informalities: The last line of claim 11 recites, "edge of **the of the** continuous part plates." It seems the phrase "of the" repeated in the last line.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 11, 17-20, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Narozny (4,067,637) in view of Sinclair et al (4,225,205).

Narozny discloses a continuous ribbon 20 configured to be severed to form a plurality of connector with a varying width, the ribbon 20 comprising two part plates 22 and 24. Two part plates 22 and 24 are latched to each other to form a connector with a receiving space 58 therebetween. Figures 6 and 7 show each plate having spacers on an internal face thereof which define a gap 58 between the two part plates. Figure 4 shows the lower plate 22 having an opening 40 for receiving a contact 42. Figure 14 shows two plates having two contacts opposite to each other. However, the two part plates of the ribbon 20 are not mutually connected by an integral flexible connecting piece. Instead, two part plates are latched to each other.

Art Unit: 2839

Sinclair discloses a connector 30 comprising two part plates 36 and 38 mutually connected by an integral flexible connecting piece 37 and 39 extending continuously along a leading edge of the continuous part plates 36 and 38, which are folded onto each other to form a connector with a receiving space therebetween. Sinclair teaches that the connector 30 provides strain relief to tightly hold a flexible flat cable 12 within the connector 30.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the ribbon taught by Narozny such that it would have an integral flexible connecting piece to mutually connect the two part plates as taught by Sinclair because one of the plate pieces would not be misplaced easily since they are connected to each other and two plate pieces would provide a tight hold of a flexible flat cable between the two plate pieces.

4. Claims 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Narozny and Sinclair et al as applied to claims 11, 17-20 and 23 above, and further in view of Strate (4,813,892).

Claims 21 and 22 recite that one part plate has a groove or a web on an external surface parallel to an insertion direction of the connector for providing a correct insertion position of the connector.

While Narozny and Sinclair do not disclose a groove or a web, Strate discloses a connector having a plurality of projections 5, 7 for a correct insertion position of the connector.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the connector taught by Narozny or Sinclair such that it would have a plurality of projections as taught by Strate because the projections would ensure the proper insertion position of the connector.

Art Unit: 2839

5. Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Narozny and Sinclair as applied to claims 11, 17-20 and 23 above, and further in view of Ortega et al (5,830,012).

Claim 24 recites that the ribbon is disposed on a reel, but Narozny does not disclose the ribbon 20 being disposed on a reel.

Ortega discloses a continuous electrical connectors strip disposed on a reel (see Fig. 11) for storage or transportation purpose.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to dispose the ribbon taught by Narozny on a reel as taught by Ortega because the reel provides easy storage or transportation.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 11 and 17-24 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

Art Unit: 2839

will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hae M. Hyeon whose telephone number is 571-272-2093. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. (8:30-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tulsidas C. Patel can be reached on (571) 272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Hae M Hyeon
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2839

hnh

hnh

Hae Moon Hyeon